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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 3327.2303-00000

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
Kazuhiko IRISAWA et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1753  
)  
Application No.: 10/622,495 ) Examiner: Unassigned  
)  
Filed: July 21, 2003 )  
)  
For: VACUUM ARC DEPOSITION )  
APPARATUS )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**STATUS INQUIRY**

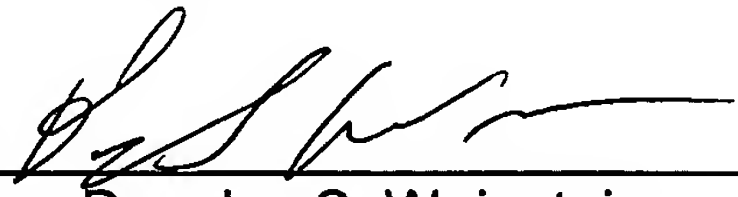
According to our records, the last communication received from the Patent Office in the above-identified application was the Notice of Publication of Application with publication date of July 15, 2004. There has been no further action from the PTO.

In view of these circumstances, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests that the Office advise him of the status of this application as soon as possible in order to determine whether further action by the applicants is required at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 29, 2005

By:   
Douglas S. Weinstein  
Reg. No. 43,249